

NANTYGLO & BLAINA TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF NANT-Y-GLO A BLAENAU

Mrs T Hughes Town Clerk/RFO

Council Offices, Blaina Institute, High Street, Blaina NP13 3BN
Swyddfa'r r Cyngor, Sefydliad Blaenau, Y Stryd Fawr, Blaenau, NP13 3BN
Tel: 01495 292817 e-mail: clerk@nantygloandblainatc.co.uk

Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 22nd October 2019.

A meeting to which members of the public were entitled to attend.

Present: Councillor K Jones, Town Mayor, Chair of Council
Councillors C Bridgeman; T James; D Hillman; C Hillman; K Jenkins;
R Abbas; G Morvan

In attendance: Miss H Roberts, Assistant Officer

Declaration of Interest

Members were invited to declare matters of interest either at the beginning or at any time during the proceedings. Please note that all declarations of interest must be recorded in the book provided. **Resolved** to note that none received.

1. Apologies:

Members were invited to consider the apologies for absence received and to formally resolve to accept.

Resolved to note that apologies were received from Councillors L Harris, G Watkins, K Treharne and Mrs T Hughes

Further Resolved to accept apologies.

2. Town Mayor's Communications:

The Town Mayor to inform of his activities during October 2019.

The Town Mayor informed members of the successful Civic Sunday event. Councillor Jenkins congratulated the Town Mayor and his consort on such a successful event. The Town Mayor thanked the Town Clerk on the arranging of Civic Sunday.

The Town Mayor informed members that he was unable to attend the GAVO presentation evening. Instead, Councillors D Hillman and C Hillman were invited to report on the event. Councillors Hillman presented a programme from the evening which had noted the sponsorship from Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council. Councillor Hillman informed members that the Town Council sponsored award, GAVO Chairman's Award, was received by Councillor Terrence Hughes.

Resolved to note the information received.

3. Minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held 24th September 2019 (pages 56-60)

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

- a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

4. Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held 24th September 2019 (pages 61- 67)

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

- a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

Page 66: Councillor Abbas informed members that the Musical Bridges events was in its 3rd year, not 4th as stated in the minutes.

Resolved that the minutes be approved with amendments

5. Minutes of the Planning & Highways Committee Meeting held 14th October 2019 (pages 68-70)

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

- a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

6. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting held 14th October 2019 (pages 71-77)

Members were invited to consider the above minutes and if appropriate to approve them as an accurate record of proceedings.

- a) Matters arising, for information & clarification only:

Page 75: Councillor Abbas gave feedback in respect of Item 6. He informed members that he had spoken to the Scheme Manager at Llys Nant y Mynydd and that they would be more than happy to welcome the Council to hold their meeting at Llys Nant y Mynydd. Members were informed that they would be able to use the meeting room. It was suggested that the Town Council could advertise the meeting in Nantyglo on BGfm. Members welcomed this.

Page 75: A member queried whether if there were any additional updates in respect of flagpole and was informed that there was no more information at present.

Page 76: A member had informed that he had researched video camera intercoms and reported that they were affordable and would provide a preventative measure as a member of the public could be seen and heard before granting permission to enter the building. Members agreed that this item was to be considered at a Personnel Committee meeting. A member queried whether there was a lone working policy in place and queried how the opening times were affected when members of staff were on annual leave.

Resolved that the minutes be approved.

7. **Correspondence:**

Members were invited to consider the listed correspondence, plus with the Chairman's permission, any urgent information that may be received prior to the date of the meeting.

a) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board:

i. Feedback requested to inform the Action Plan for 2020-21.

Members were requested to submit their comments and responses for the survey so that the Town Clerk could submit the survey collectively on behalf of the Town Council.

A member queried whether it would be possible to invite a speaker from the Health Board to discuss and explain further what they do.

Resolved that members submit their comments to the Town Clerk. **Further Resolved** to investigate the possibility of inviting a speaker from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

b) Rafi & Christine Abbas:

i. Invitations to 'Tahirih – The Pure' at Blaina Institute on Thursday 24th October at 7.30pm and 'Mystic Music – Tranquillity Zone' at Blaina Institute on Friday 25th October at 7.30pm.

Councillor Abbas informed members that this event was open to all. He explained that the event on Thursday would be a two-part presentation exploring the concept of empowerment of women and would include a monologue. Members were additionally informed that the event on Thursday would cost £3 and the event on Friday would be free and that musicians from Cornwall would be performing.

Resolved to note the information received.

Additional correspondence received with the permission of the Chairman:

c) Thomas McKnight:

i. Resignation letter in respect of Councillor Thomas McKnight.

Councillor Jones read the letter received from Councillor McKnight to all members present. Members were upset hearing the news of Councillor McKnight's resignation and commended him on his time at Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council, including his position as Mayor's Consort 2017-2018 and his role as Chair of Events Committee. Members requested that the Town Clerk send a letter of thanks for his services to the Town Council.

Members expressed concerns of attracting younger members. It was also noted that members felt that Councillor McKnight was let down due to the lack of training even though mentoring was offered from individual members.

Resolved to accept the resignation of Councillor Thomas McKnight.

d) Blaeanau Gwent County Borough Council

i. Email received from Deanne Griffiths, Civil Contingencies Manager in respect of Armistice Day Parade 2019

Members queried whether they could have a copy of this year's parade route.

Resolved to send a copy of 2019's parade route to members.

- ii. Email received from David Arnold, Policy Officer in respect of 'My Services BGCBC' app briefing session.

It was noted that nobody from Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council attended the initial session. Members requested that for future meetings that a location be determined, and an email reminding all be sent.

Resolved to note the information received.

- iii. Poster in respect of Open Access Play Sessions during half term.

Members were informed that a session was being held at Blaina Integrated Children's Centre on Tuesday 29th October between 1.30pm and 3.30pm.

Members were reminded that these events take place during the half term holidays. Members welcomed activities in the Blaina ward.

Resolved to note the information received.

e) One Voice Wales

- i. Email in respect of upcoming training dates for members.

Members were informed that the cost of training would be £40 per person.

Resolved that members who would like to attend training inform the Town Clerk.

8. Application to the Community Grant Fund:

Members were invited to consider the listed application(s), plus with the Chairman's permission any additional applications that may be received prior to the date of the meeting. Members were also reminded that applications will need to be considered in conjunction with the current policy.

- a) *None received to date.*

Resolved accordingly.

9. BDO LLP:

External Auditor's report and certificate in respect of the Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2019. An action plan based upon the *Internal Auditor's recommendations* was also enclosed for Member's consideration. Members were invited to note and if agreed, to approve and accept Annual Return, certificate and Action Plan.

Members were informed that Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council had received no recommendation and was the Internal Auditor's only Council to receive such a response.

Members commented that this was a very good report and additionally emphasised the importance of an action plan.

Resolved that the Annual Return and the Action Plan for the year ended 31st March 2019 be approved and accepted.

10. Welsh Government:

Members were invited to consider the final report in respect of the Independent's Review Panel on Community and Town Councils in Wales.

- Page 11: Councillor D Hillman informed members that he had spoken to members from Tredegar Town Council about this item and have expressed that they would like to meet with the Chief Executive and Chair of One Voice Wales. Another member commented that they were unhappy that members were unable to contact One Voice Wales directly.
- Page 14: Members emphasised the importance of the bullet points.
- Page 15: Members expressed concerns that this was a lot for Town Councils to take on, i.e. precept issues, financing issues, staffing issues.
- Page 16: Following on from issues raised on page 15, members commented that there was a lot to bear in mind in respect of the items/issues that Town and Community Councils are likely going to have to take on. Members noted that there were expectations with the general power of competence.
- Page 17: Members commented that hopefully there will be more weight to the comments submitted via the Planning Committee.
- Page 19: The second recommendation was very welcomed. This would be needed as soon as possible in order to give assistance to members.
- Page 22: Members commented that assistance would be needed to support this.
- Page 24: Members commented that all should abide by the Nolan Principles and discussed that basic training should be repeated every elected term.
- Page 28: Members expressed concerns in reference to the comment about co-option in the third paragraph. Members agreed that co-option was critical to Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council. A member commented that they would like the Council to contact the local radio station to discuss the activities of the Council.
- Page 29: It was noted that the Town Council was currently forming an action plan.
- Page 30: Member expressed a desire to hold more engagement events so that they could signpost constituents.
- Page 31: Nantyglo and Blaina Town Council already had a Code of Conduct in place and members agreed that this was essential.
- Page 34: Members discussed the bullet points and has expressed concerns over the same issues covered previously.

Resolved to note the information received.

11. Purchase of a 'Shredder' for Town Council use:

Members were requested to consider the purchase of a shredder to ensure the safe disposal of confidential information in order to comply with all data protection requirements (GDPR). Details of costs would be provided at the meeting.

The quotes provided were read to members. Members were additionally informed that only one company, Viking accepted payments via cheque. Members were also informed that the Town Council uses Viking's service for stationery supplies.

Members discussed the options that were presented and agreed that the Council should purchase one of two models chosen, whichever of these chosen would be supplied by Viking.

Resolved that a shredder be purchased.

12. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales:

Members were invited to consider and if appropriate to comment on the IRPW's draft annual report for 2020/21. Members were informed that only the information relevant to Town / Community Councils was contained in the agenda although the full report was placed in the Council Chamber.

Members commented that this item had been discussed several times with very little change. A member noted that the Council should take note of the bullet points under 'claims.'

Resolved to note the information received.

13. Planning Applications:

Members were invited to consider the listed application(s), plus with the Chairman's permission, any additional applications that may be received prior to the date of the meeting.

- a) *None received to date.*

Resolved accordingly.

14. Licensing Applications:

Members were invited to consider the listed application(s), plus with the Chairman's permission, any additional applications that may be received prior to the date of the meeting.

None received to date.

Resolved accordingly.

15. **Members' Updates:**

Members were invited to inform and provide updates of any recent activities and/or concerns:

a) Cllr G Morvan – Crime Prevention Panel

Councillor Morvan informed members that the Crime Prevention Panel meets monthly at Blaina Police Station and that this group is made up of the people from these areas, i.e. Brynmawr to Aberbeeg. The Police Crime Commissioner for Gwent had commented that this was the most proactive panel.

Councillor Morvan explained that the Crime Prevention Panel attend '999' open days and other events which is a good way of getting involved and trying to keep the community safe.

Councillor Morvan spoke about crime patterns for the area currently and informed members that leaflet drops would take place particularly for items on view for example in cars or vehicles which have been left unattended. Letters with crime prevention advice would be sent to the owner and victims visited to aid them with prevention advice.

Members were invited to ask questions at this juncture:

Q. Were there any patterns of crime currently?

A. Theft from non-attended vehicles, particularly items that could be sold easily primarily for the purchase of drugs. Local police were working on initiatives to improve that. Other patterns include non-residential burglaries and unattended property.

Q. Were there any neighbourhood watch schemes in the area?

A. There were no neighbourhood watch schemes in the area. The Crime Prevention Panel were essentially the new neighbourhood watch scheme.

Q. Was 101 (non-emergency contact number) holding its worth?

A. Although initially it was very poor, the Police Crime Commissioner had worked on the system with a number of people working on this to improve it. There were reservations on how well this was working.

Resolved to note the information received.

b) Cllr R Abbas – One Voice Gwent Valleys Area Meeting

Councillor K Jenkins apologised for not being able to attend this meeting.

Councillor Abbas informed members that seven town councils were present and one town clerk. Councillor Abbas informed members that there was a guest speaker, Mr Rhodri Evans from Fields in the Trust, concerning the costs of maintenance and presentation of parks. Councillor Abbas had brought the reading material from this meeting for the Town Council to have access to the material.

Councillor Abbas informed members that Pontypool Town Council had recently held an interesting project. Pontypool Town Council was twinned with four countries and had arranged a youth conference to discuss issues related to youth from the twinned countries. Members were informed that eight young people were involved.

Councillor Abbas informed members that other items discussed included websites, where Abertillery and Llanhilleth Town Council commented on the limitations of web design and as such had found a loophole by uploading pdf files.

Councillor Abbas had informed members that a list of approved contractors and services was mentioned. Members welcomed this.

Resolved to note the information received.

89 (19/20)

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right, and a smaller, more complex mark below it.